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LETTER DATED 27 JUNE 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to the letter contained in document S/1996/434 of 14 June 1996, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 26 June 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Abdellatif Filali, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 26 June 1996 from the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco addressed to the President of the Security Council

Mr. Jerry John Rawlings, President of the Republic of Ghana and current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), deemed it useful to send you a letter, dated 11 June 1996, on the question of the Sahara, supposedly on behalf of ECOWAS member States.

Morocco would have liked to applaud this initiative if it had actually aimed at supporting the action of the United Nations Security Council and if it were prompted by a sincere desire to contribute to the implementation of the settlement plan.

Unfortunately, one can only note that this initiative, which is surprising on several grounds, proceeds from a logic that is ostensibly at variance with the principles it claims to defend. Largely inspired, this letter denotes an obvious bias as well as manifest negative intentions.

Worse still, this letter proceeds from a blatantly deceptive spirit that seeks to commit ECOWAS member States without their knowledge. Judging from the reaction of the countries concerned, it is now an established fact that the latest developments of the Sahara question were not discussed at any ECOWAS meeting, nor were there, for that matter, any consultations on the question among the member States concerned. In fact, the authorities of these countries unanimously condemn the political skid of their Chairman and dissociate themselves from his irresponsible initiative, to say the least.

You will probably agree with me that the method used is inconsistent with international ethics and that it violates the deontology that is commonly admitted and respected within regional organizations.

Naturally, Morocco will not allow itself to be led into a useless and futile controversy, regarding neither the excessive wording of the letter nor the personal and dubious motivations underlying it, to which ECOWAS Member States declare that they do not subscribe.

The concerns of Mr. Rawlings regarding peace in the region are a poor disguise of his relentless animosity towards Morocco, such animosity being itself a remnant of a largely outdated ideology today. It may therefore be advisable for him not to interfere in such a manner, in a problem involving a region, the realities of which he is totally unaware, and to save his energies, rather, for the settlement of the tragedy that has long affected his subregion, and about which the United Nations called upon ECOWAS not to fail in its determination to establish therein a permanent and lasting peace.

I kindly request you to circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdellatif FILALI
Prime Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Cooperation